

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 06938 201505Z

51 41

ACTION ITFE-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 ORM-01 SR-02 VOE-00 SCA-01 AID-05

INSE-00 DODE-00 IO-10 FDRE-00 SS-15 SSO-00 NSC-05

NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5537

UNCLAS HONG KONG 6938

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT: ORIGINAL HAD LONG LINES  
AND GARBLES)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, HK

SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN HONG KONG

REF: STATE 133652, STATE 141421

1. THE PROBLEM OF THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN HONG KONG HAS NOW SHIFTED FROM ONE OF ADMISSIBILITY CRITERIA TO ONE OF THE MECHANICS OF ADMISSION ITSELF. WE ARE SATISFIED THAT THE REFINED AND REDEFINED CRITERIA WILL PERMIT THE US TO TAKE THOSE REFUGEES WHO HAVE CLOSE CONNECTIONS WITH THE US. OUR PROBLEM NOW IS THAT THE PROCESSING OF ELIGIBLES THREATENS TO BE SO COMPLEX AND TIME-CONSUMING THAT IT WILL RESULT IN UNREASONABLE AND UNACCEPTABLE DELAYS. CONSEQUENTLY, IT IS TIME NOW FOR US TO GO OVER THE GROUND ONCE MORE WITH THE TASK FORCE TO BE ABSOLUTELY SURE THAT THERE ARE NO MISUNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT WHAT WE ARE SUPPOSED TO DO OUT HERE AND WHAT WE CAN EXPECT TO BE DONE BACK IN THE US. IN ORDER TO RETAIN CREDIBILITY HERE AND FOR SIMPLE, BUT COMPELLING HUMANITARIAN REASONS, THE US IS VERY SOON GOING TO HAVE TO START MOVING THE US-BOUND REFUGEES CURRENTLY JAMMED UP IN HONG KONG'S RAIN-SOAKED

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 HONG K 06938 201505Z

TEMPORARY SHELTERS WITH THE SYPHOON SEASON BEGINNING.

2. THE NEED TO REVIEW THE ADMISSION MECHANICS IS HEIGHTENED BECAUSE WE HAVE JUST LEARNED INDIRECTLY THAT OUR LOCAL MANAGEMENT OF THE REFUGEE PROBLEM IS TO BE DRASTICALLY ALTERED. THE OFFICER IN CHARGE INS/HK HAS INFORMED CONGEN THAT HE MUST NOW CONCENTRATE HIS EFFORTS ON INS ADJUDICATIONS AND INVESTIGATIONS AND MUST BE BRIEFED TO TAKE OVER AS ACTING DISTRICT DIRECTOR DURING THE HOME LEAVE ABSENCE OF THE DD. INS/HK HAS ASSURED CONGEN THAT IT WILL ASSIST WHENEVER POSSIBLE, BUT THE SHIFT IN MANAGEMENT IS OBVIOUSLY NOT GOING TO MAKE THE HANDLING OF THE PROBLEM ANY EASIER.

3. ON THE BASIS OF ADMISSIBILITY CRITERIA SO FAR SUPPLIED, WE HAVE SOME 1,300 QUALIFIED REFUGEES SCREENED AND READY TO GO, PENDING VERIFICATION, MEDICAL CHECKS, AND TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS. IN THIS CONNECTION, THERE IS STILL SOME CONFUSION ABOUT WHAT IS BEING DONE, BY WHOM, AND TO WHAT PURPOSE.

4. VERIFICATION: (A) LISTS OF NAMES OF CLAIMED US CITIZEN OR PERMANENT RESIDENT ALIEN RELATIVES TOGETHER WITH AVAILABLE US ADDRESSES HAVE BEEN SENT FROM CONGEN TO INS CENTRAL OFFICE (INS/CO). A LETTER HAS ALSO BEEN MAILED BY CONGEN TO THE CLAIMED RELATIVE IN THE US ASKING THE INDIVIDUAL TO GO TO THE NEAREST INS OFFICE TO VERIFY HIS STATUS SO THAT INS CAN INFORM US OF THE VERIFICATION. (WE ARE NOW GOING TO FOLLOW UP WITH CABLES TO LETTER ADDRESSEES). WE HAVE RECEIVED JUST A FEW VERIFICATIONS THROUGH THIS PROCESS AND INS/CO HAS ASKED FOR DATES OF BIRTH OF THE CLAIMED US RELATIVES. IN MOST CASES, WE HAVE ALREADY SENT WHAT WE HAVE. WE WILL GO BACK TO THE REFUGEES AND ASK AGAIN, BUT DON'T EXPECT TO GET VERY MUCH. IS THIS GOING TO BOG DOWN THE VERIFICATION PROCESS AND WIPE OUT MOST OF THIS CATEGORY WHICH WOULD BE UNTHINKABLE. IN OUR OPINION BIRTH-DATES ARE NOT PARTICULARLY RELIABLE AS MEANS OF VERIFICATION SINCE VIETNAMESE USUALLY DON'T KNOW THEM. (B) LIST OF NAMES OF CLAIMED US REFUGEE PIPELINE RELATIVES OF HK REFUGEES HAVE BEEN SENT TO INS/CO TO PASS TO THE AMERICAN RED CROSS (ARC) FOR CHECKING. HAS THIS LIST BEEN PASSED? WILL ARA BOTH IDENTIFY INDIVIDUAL AND CONFIRM RELATIONSHIP? WILL WE HEAR DIRECTLY FROM ARC? WHEN? WE HOPE THIS WILL BE HANDLED TELEGRAPHICALLY RATHER THAN BY MAIL. UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 HONG K 06938 201505Z

(C) LIST OF NAMES OF REFUGEES CLAIMING USG EMPLOYMENT HAVE BEEN SENT TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR VERIFICATION. TO DATE, WE HAVE HAD RESPONSES IN ONLY A VERY FEW CASES. WE ARE VERIFYING ON THE SPOT THOSE WHO HAVE DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE OF EMPLOYMENT. IN CASES WHETHER EITHER ID CARD OR DATE OF EMPLOYMENT CANNOT BE VERIFIED HERE OR IN THE US, WILL INDIVIDUAL BE REFUSED PAROLE ON FORMER US EMPLOYMENT BASIS? IS DEFENSE DEPARTMENT IDENTIFICATION ROUTE USEFUL?

5. SECURITY CLEARANCE: INS/HK HAS SUBMITTED (FORM G325A) REQUEST FOR SECURITY CLEARANCE ON EACH REFUGEE OVER 16 YEARS OF AGE, AND WE ARE WAITING FOR THESE CLEARANCES WHICH WE UNDERSTAND WILL COME TO US FROM INS/CO THROUGH THE TASK FORCE. WE UNDERSTOOD THAT PROCESS WOULD TAKE TWO WEEKS, WHICH HAVE ALREADY PASSED. MEANTIME, AND IN RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC REQUESTS, WE HAVE INITIATED THE SHORTER VISAS FALCON CLEARANCE PROCEDURE, BUT WE ARE NOT GOING BACK AND RESUBMIT VISAS FALCON INFORMATION ON THE WHOLE GROUP OF REFUGEES. ARE WE CORRECT AND WOULD IT SPEED IT UP IF WE DID?

6. TRAVEL: WHEN WE ARE SATISFIED THAT ALL OTHER CONDITIONS PRECEDENT HAVE BEEN MET, WE WILL WORK OUT APPROPRIATE TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS. THE IATF INSTRUCTIONS ON TRAVEL HAVE BEEN VAGUE AND NEED STRAIGHTENING OUT NOW. (A) SPONSORS: INFORMATION ON SPONSORS IN THE FILES WE HAVE SO FAR ACCUMULATED IS PROBABLY INSUFFICIENT AND WE ARE GOING BACK TO REFUGEE FAMILY HEADS FOR MORE WHILE WAITING FOR THE PROCESSING INDICATED ABOVE. WHERE A SPONSOR IS IDENTIFIED, EITHER BY THE REFUGEE OR BY COMMUNICATION DIRECTLY FROM THE SPONSOR, WE WILL CONTACT THE SPONSOR BY CABLE AND DETERMINE WHETHER HE IS PREPARED TO FOOT THE BILL FOR TRANSPORTATION OF THE WHOLE REFUGEE FAMILY. IF THE SPONSOR CAN'T OR WON'T PAY TRANSPORTATION, BUT WILL STILL SPONSOR THE FAMILY, THE FAMILY MAY BE SENT DIRECTLY TO THE SPONSOR UNDER ICEM AUSPICES. IF HE WILL PAY, WE WILL ASK HIM TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR DIRECT TRAVEL THROUGH ICEM. IF A \$4,000 PER CAPITA FINANCIAL CAPABILITY IS DETERMINED, THE REFUGEE FAMILY WILL BE ASKED TO DESIGNATE THE US DESTINATION AND ICEM WILL BE ASKED TO MAKE DIRECT TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS. THE NORMAL IMMIGRANT VISA MEDICAL EXAM WILL BE PAID FOR BY THE SPONSOR, THE REFUGEE, OR ICEM, A THE CASE MAY BE. (B) NON-SPONSORED OR FINANCIALLY INCAPABLE REFUGEES UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 HONG K 06938 201505Z

WHO ARE QUALIFIED TO TRAVEL WILL BE SCREENED BY A CONSULAR OFFICER FOR MEDICAL GROUNDS OF INELIGIBILITY AND THEN TURNED OVER TO ICEM FOR TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS. (C) IN ALL CASES, THE POST WILL ISSUE INDIVIDUAL PAROLE LETTERS IN THE FORM ALREADY DESIGNATED AND INS FORM I-94. TRAVEL READINESS OF REFUGEES WITH CONFIRMED SPONSORSHIP, TOGETHER WITH PROPOSED DESTINATION, WILL BE ANNOUNCED TO IATF IN ALL CASES PRIOR TO FINAL TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS IN ORDER TO FACILITATE US ENTRY. IN CASE OF REFUGEES WHOM IATF HAS APPROVED FOR MOVEMENT TO A US PROCESSING CENTER, A CONFIRMING DEPARTURE MESSAGE WILL BE SENT TO THE CENTER. (D) THE ABOVE IS CONSTRUCTED ON THE BASIS OF THE INSTRUCTIONS SO FAR RECEIVED, BUT IT IS ESSENTIAL TO KNOW IF WE ARE ON THE RIGHT TRACK.

7. WE WOULD APPRECIATE A TASK FORCE RESPONSE SOONEST. ALL

THE OTHER COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN THE INTERNATIONALIZATION  
OF HONG KONG'S REFUGEE PROBLEM ARE MOVING MUCH FASTER THAN  
WE ARE. THE EXPLANATION THAT WE HAVE OUR OWN REFUGEE PROBLEMS  
WILL GO ONLY SO FAR AND IS ALREADY WIDELY REGARDED AS FORM  
OF FAKING OUT. SOME HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE PRIVATELY  
SUGGESTED THAT THE US IS TRYING TO FORCE HONG KONG TO BEAR THE  
US SHARE OF THE HONG KONG REFUGEE BURDEN UNTIL THE US CAN CLEAR  
ITS OWN PIPELINE. THE CONSIDER THIS RATHER TRICKY ON OUR  
PART IN VIEW OF OUR ORIBINAL BRAVE WORDS. AT ANY RATE, UNTIL  
WE CAN BEGIN SOME SORT OF REGULAR MOVEMENT OF THE REFUGEES  
FROM HONG KONG, THE UNITED STATES WILL BE PUBLICLY AND  
CONSPICUOUSLY GIVING THE APPEARANCE OF DRAGGING ITS FEET.  
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